

Testimony of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
To the Committee on General Law
Regarding SB 316 – An Act Concerning Cellular Telephone Labeling

Thursday, February 7, 2013

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers is the leading advocacy group for the automobile industry, representing 12 automobile manufacturers that account for over 77% of all passenger car and light truck sales in the United States. On behalf of our member companies – the BMW Group, Chrysler Group LLC, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, Jaguar Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz USA, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota, Volkswagen Group of America, and Volvo Cars North America – please register the Alliance's opposition to Senate Bill 316.

The Alliance's concern with SB 316 is that it may inadvertently capture a vehicle's integrated telematics systems into the definition of a cellular phone, thereby requiring these systems to be labeled. Vehicles today are extremely sophisticated and many provide features that allow for hands-free interpersonal communication in various forms. Subjecting these hands-free systems to a label that provides a recommended distance such phones should be held from the head and body is counterintuitive given that they are designed to operate without being held by the operator.

Without a definition of cellular telephone, it is unclear whether or not these systems would be subject to the proposed labeling requirement within SB 316. Therefore, the Alliance respectfully opposes this legislation and encourages the Committee to oppose as well.

Thank you for your consideration of the Alliance's position.

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